
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6384

AN ACT CONCERNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.

SUMMARY:

By law, when the State Department of Education (SDE) informs a local or regional board of education that it disproportionately and inappropriately identifies minority students as needing special education due to a reading deficiency, the board must annually report to SDE on how it is reducing the misidentification. This bill extends these provisions to situations where SDE informs a board that it is misidentifying students whose primary language is not English (see COMMENT).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Board of Education Reduction Plans

By law, SDE must study the plans and strategies used by local and regional boards of education to reduce the number of minority students misidentified as eligible for special education. The study determines whether a correlation exists between improvements in teacher training for reading instruction and a reduction in misidentified students.

COMMENT

Substantive Issue with Reporting Requirements

While current law requires boards of education to report to SDE on plans to reduce misidentification of minority students for special education, the bill does not require reporting of plans for misidentified students whose primary language is not English. Also, the bill does not require SDE to study board plans for reducing misidentification of students whose primary language is not English.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/13/2013)